GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:449
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
TELEPHONE FACILITY IN VILLAGES
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country without telephone facility, at present;

(b) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) hasdirected all the private telecom companies to deposit five per cent of their net profits in order to provide telephone facility in the remote villages;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed by the TRAI in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of companies, which have deposited this amount?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTTO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHAIN RESPECTOF PARTS(a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 449 FOR 24TH APRIL, 2002 REGARDING TELEPHONE FACILITY IN VILLAGES.

(a) As per available information, 1,38,629 villages are without telephone facility as on 31st March, 2002.

(b) & (c): On the recommendation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI), Government have decided toapportion universal service support levy @5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue(AGR).This levy is a part of the total licence fee to be paid by the various service providers such as Basic, Cellular, National and International Long distance, Paging, Infrastructure Provider Category-II (IP-II) Very Small Aperture Terminal(VSAT).

(d) About Rs. 41.73 crores has been collected from 24 private companies during the current financial year.